

# Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge

## BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA CHAPTER



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### OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

Vol. 3, Issue 2 October 26, 2007

#### 2007-2008

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### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Bankie Benton, President

Dear Members,

Five from Broward County have recently returned from the Freedoms Volunteer Conference at Valley Forge; Lt. Col. Connie Christensen, Lorraine Fletcher, Ted Currier, Bill and Bankie Benton. Thanks to all your hard work our chapter was a shining star and received many accolades. Thanks to Lorraine and Pat McDougale we received 15 nation awards of the 16 submitted and the 16<sup>th</sup> received honorable mention. Be sure to invite your members to come to the Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> Award Luncheon. Recipients are coming from Maine to Florida to receive this national honor.

This year we will send 75 students for The Spirit of America Conference, 3 groups of 25 each. Please call Pat McDougale to help with the interviewing or be a chaperone. We will send a format to all interviewers to make the process more uniform. Bill and I have interviewed for several years. It is most uplifting to see the dedication of these young people, our future leaders.

The new leadership at Valley Forge has made the place come alive! Mike DiYeso, our president, is one dynamic person with many new plans and Russ Shulz does a terrific job with these young people. California is sending several 6<sup>th</sup> grade classes, a chaperone for every 10 with teachers and members serving. The 6<sup>th</sup> graders come with new coats, hats, gloves and mittens for snow. They can feel how cold it was when Washington crossed the Delaware.

*President's Message continues on page 4*

#### BOARD MEMBERS AT LARGE

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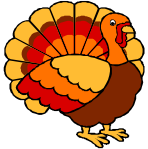


## 2007 – 2008 Calendar Of Events



Unless otherwise indicated  
all events will be held at the Coral Ridge Yacht Club  
2800 Yacht Club Boulevard, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33304

### SAVE THESE DATES!



November 7, 2007  
Annual National Awards Luncheon



December 11, 2007  
Christmas Cocktail Party

January 16, 2008  
Journey through China 2006-07 – Roy and Cookie Williams

January 26, 2008  
Dedication of Jack and Harriet Kaye Park – On site: Bay View Drive



February 23, 2008  
George Washington Birthday Ball



March 19, 2008  
St. Patrick's Day Program – Patricia Hoefling

April 27, 2008  
Annual Student Luncheon

May 21, 2008  
Installation of Officers – 2008-2009



## NOVEMBER LUNCHEON MEETING REMINDER

### IMPORTANT! IMPORTANT! IMPORTANT!

The meeting on November 7<sup>th</sup> has been designated the National Awards Luncheon where eighteen local and national individuals, organizations, and corporations nominated by our chapter will be presented with Freedoms Foundation National Awards. Sixteen will receive the George Washington Honor Medal, one student will be presented with a \$50 saving bond for an essay entry, and one meritorious award will be presented with a special George Washington Honor Plaque.

One cannot help but be inspired—and feel overwhelming pride and patriotism—upon hearing the story of each award recipient and their outstanding contribution in words and/or deeds that promote America's rich heritage and unique freedoms.

You do not want to miss the National Awards Luncheon. In addition to the awards, a special program is planned including a guest speaker and patriotic music. Special guests have been invited. You will want to share in the excitement and be there to say thanks from the Broward Chapter of Freedoms Foundation to the eighteen Americans being honored.



**November Event**



***NATIONAL AWARDS LUNCHEON***

**Date: Wednesday, November 7, 2007**

**Time: 11:30 a.m. – Registration  
Noon – Luncheon**

**Place: Coral Ridge Yacht Club  
Intracoastal Room  
2800 Yacht Club Blvd.  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33304**

**Chairmen: Patricia McDougle and Lorraine Fletcher**

\* \* \* \* \*

**THE CLUB REQUIRES THAT RESERVATIONS BE MADE NO LATER THAN  
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2007.**

Enclosed is a check for \$20.00 each for \_\_\_\_\_ reservations.

Please make check payable to FREEDOMS FOUNDATION, BCC and mail to:



Kay Warren  
711 N. W. 71 Avenue  
Plantation, FL 33317  
954-587-2615

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

I am unable to attend but please accept my donation of: \$\_\_\_\_\_

## George Washington Birthday Ball

### The 35<sup>th</sup> George Washington Birthday Ball Sure to be a Winner!

Edward Johnson and Susan Rachanski are Co-Chairmen of the Ball to be held Saturday, February 23, 2008 at the Coral Ridge Yacht Club.



Pictured are Ed, his wife, Alice; Suzy and her husband, Chris, in the Rachanski home, with flag and friend in the middle.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *(continued from page 1)*

They also have sledding time on the rolling hills followed by a clothing brigade of adults retrieving hats, gloves, scarves and mittens! Then to sit at Christ Church, in pew 58, where George Washington prayed and in pew 12, where Betsy Ross worshiped. Russ said these youngsters are wide-eyed and it makes history come alive for them! Hopefully we will be able to send 6<sup>th</sup> graders in the future.

We have a new director of development, Dr. Donna Thomas. There is a lot of money out there for the asking from corporations and government. We need grant writers and we can accomplish even more. Donna will help us with the details. Please call me if you've had any experience in grant writing or would like to learn.

If you have never been to Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge please try to go with the students or anytime there is a group going. It is well worth your time; so much to see and do and the meals are delicious! November is an exciting month. Bring a new member with you.

See you soon,

**Bankie**

Elizabeth Eubank Benton, President



## Observations on the 40th Annual Volunteer Chapter Conference September 26 – 30, 2007



### *From Your Southern Regional Advisor*

When Russ Schulz asked me to assume the responsibility of the Southern Regional Advisor, I accepted, having no working knowledge of what the responsibilities of the position would require of me, but knowing that I had been called to service to support the missions of our amazing organization which is changing the future course of the lives of our young Americans one life at a time through education and patriotic inspiration. When our Conference began last week in Valley Forge, I found myself engaged in many and varied tasks as the Chapter attendees from across the nation began to arrive. Having an opportunity to get to know these individuals and the part that they are playing in Freedoms Foundation was a privilege, for each of them brought their own special contribution to the time that we spent together, making the Conference not only educational, but also inspirational, as well as hopeful for the future of FFVF and our ability to accomplish our goal and objectives.

Our focus is now on membership and educating our respective communities about the academic programs that we offer not only our youth, but also to parents and teachers. It is the feeling of your leadership that each of us need to take a more proactive part in recruiting new members of all ages, for we are only as viable and effective in our pursuits as our membership. We, in the Broward County Chapter, I feel, should encourage the parents of our young Americans whom we send to the Spirit of America Youth Conference to join us in our mission orientation and in the interest of bringing new life to our Chapter. New education and recruiting tools will be made available by National FFVF for our utilization to achieve what our new President & CEO, Michael DiYeso, is entitling "The Precious Few", goals that we feel are very achievable in our next fiscal year.

Some of you have, no doubt, seen the multimedia program that is presented at the Constitution Center in Philadelphia. This program ties together the historical events of the times of the American Revolution and our independence from Great Britain. It begs the question, "What will you do with your freedom?" The government experiment that was and is America has made us the only democratic super power in the World. Our freedoms, given to us by the sacrifice of our Founding Fathers and the Continental Army under the leadership of George Washington, are precious as we all know. We as members of FFVF are tasked with playing our part in preserving those freedoms and our values that demonstrate our commitment to a better America and a brighter tomorrow. Thank you for your support...

Yours in Service to FFVF ~ Connie C. Christensen, LTC AN USAR (Ret'd)



At Liberty Bell, Philadelphia



## More Observations on the 40th Annual Volunteer Chapter Conference September 26 – 30, 2007

Initial Impressions. Great weather with a hint of fall. Campus shows improvement. Stayed in boy's dorm. Has new shower, remodeled bathroom. Staff cheerful and proficient. Good vibes. Mike DiYeso, the new president is low key but very impressive and effective. (new goals, staff, direction)

Interaction with other chapters. Felt a lot of commitment. Felt very proud of Broward's achievements. Good sharing. Major issue is developing future membership. Lorraine Fletcher was the star of the discussions on Awards. Connie Christensen performed exceptionally as our Regional Advisor. She also shared some of her inspiring military experiences. President Bankie Benton demonstrated her leadership and commitment to several new programs. We can expect some visitors from the other chapters to our George Washington Ball.

The Medal of Honor Grove. It has recently received a lot of care and looks much better than last year following major weather damage. It still needs professional clearing to minimize future storm. We visited the Florida memorial site for a sobering reflection. I felt very privileged and grateful to have participated in this conference.

**- Ted Currier**



**From left to right: Russ Schulz, Executive VP Volunteer Chapters; Bankie Benton; Bill Benton; Lorraine Fletcher; Ted Currier; Connie Christensen; Mike DiYeso, President & CEO Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge; William Perry, Chairman of the Board, Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge**

FF at VF was perfect! The weather, the trip to Philadelphia and all the historic places; the entire staff, the food, the campus and accommodations. The classes and the many speakers were inspiring as were many of the attendees. The few negative people did not dampen the enthusiasm of most of us. I am sure most left with the desire to work harder and do more for our wonderful organization (I know I did...) Thank You! **- Lorraine Fletcher**

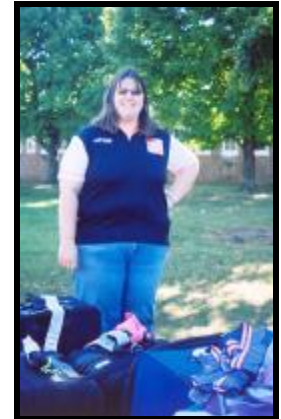


**From left to right: Lorraine Fletcher; Ted Currier; Connie Christensen; Bankie Benton; Bill Benton**

# 40th Annual Volunteer Chapter Conference September 26 – 30, 2007



Bankie Benton; Lorraine Fletcher  
Medal of Honor Grove – State of Florida Obelisk



Carolyn Santangelo  
Director of Programs



Lorraine Fletcher; Ted Currier



*Freedom's Foundation at Valley Forge  
Broward County, Florida Chapter*



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## **The Reverend Dr. Roger Verse Retires**

Our Chaplain and Second Vice President, Roger Verse, recently retired as Pastor of Second Presbyterian Church (The Sanctuary), Fort Lauderdale after 14 years of service.

The final worship service for Roger and Parish Nurse, Selma, Roger's wife, was held on Sunday, September 30, 2007, followed by a reception in McGaw Hall. Several members of Broward Chapter were present for this very special occasion.

Although the family will eventually reside in Stuart, Florida, for the present they will be at their Pompano Beach address. We are delighted that Roger will continue to be our Chaplain and Second Vice President, and we send our best wishes to the Verse family.



Sarah, Brian, Robin, Mary Kay, Roger, Selma

